



FaresNews

The latest news about The Fares Center activities

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The Fares Center

as part of The Fletcher School

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THE FLETCHER
SCHOOL

TUFTS UNIVERSITY



Message from the Fares Center:

As we begin the Spring semester, we look forward to building on our momentum in making the Center a vibrant reference point at Fletcher for all those interested in the Middle East and North Africa. Our fall semester witnessed great participation and engagement from students and faculty, particularly considering the ongoing pandemic challenges. This semester we have numerous speaker events including the Fares Center Seminar and our Current Affairs Roundtable Series, as well as our Cultural Events Series.

Stay tuned for our upcoming events and activities!

Speaker Event Series



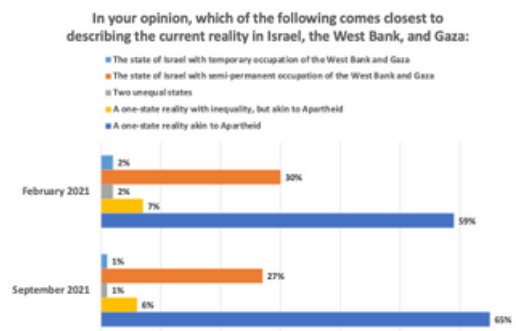
Dr. Shadi Hamid

Dr. Shadi Hamid opened this academic year's Fares Center Seminar Series. Dr. Hamid's lecture focused on the current political and socio-economic situation in the Middle East. He provided a thorough overview of the main events that have taken place in the region in the two decades after 9/11. He also discussed the role of the state, the role of religion and the relationship between these two in different Middle Eastern countries, an essential viewpoint for fully understanding the recent political developments in countries like Egypt, Iraq and Tunisia.



Professor Shibley Telhami

Professor Shibley Telhami was our second speaker of this year's Series. His was also our first hybrid event, attended by around 25 people in person and 20 more virtually. Professor Telhami presented some of the findings of the Middle East Scholar Barometer, a project that aims to probe the assessments of scholars of the Middle East on critical issues of the day. He focused on issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran, the Abraham Accords and American influence in the Middle East.



Harvard and George Washington University Middle East Scholar Barometer

Cultural Events

This fall semester we launched the Fares Center Cultural Events Series. This is a student-led initiative that aims to promote knowledge of Middle Eastern cultures. To date, we have hosted three film screenings, and we plan to expand the scope of events to include music, arts and cuisine, among others.



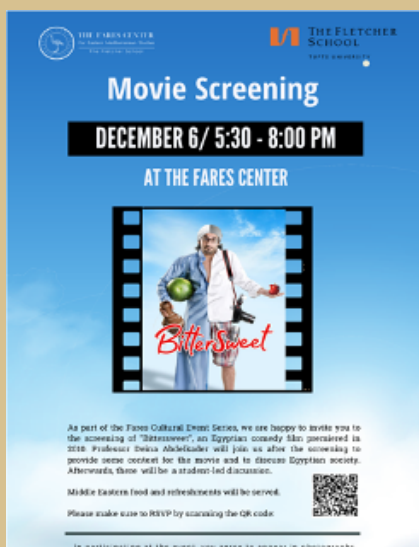
"Freedom Fields" (Libya, 2018, documentary) on October 18th, 2021

Freedom Fields follows three women and their football team in post-revolution Libya, as the country descends into civil war and the utopian hopes of the Arab Spring begin to fade.



"Heaven Without People" (Lebanon, 2017) on November 15th, 2021

Josephine, the matriarch of a sprawling family, is delighted to gather everyone for Easter lunch for the first time in two years. While they all share a joyful meal, an incident ignites underlying tensions between the family members and leads them gradually into chaos.



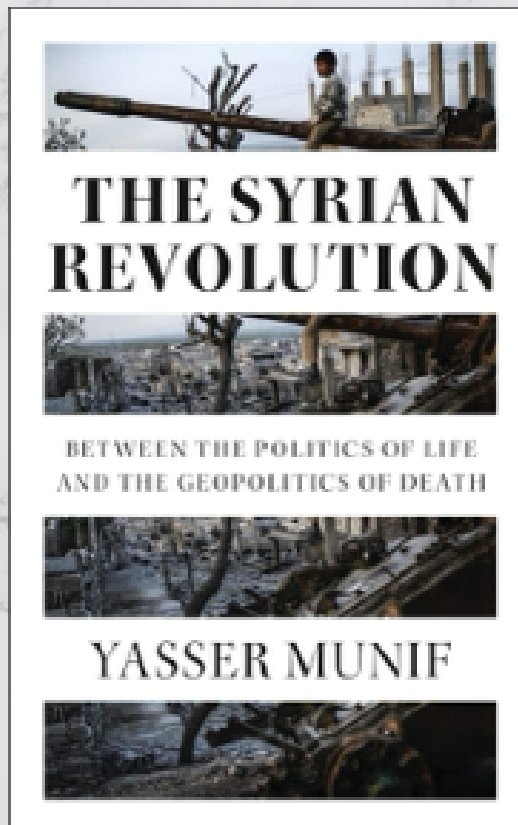
"Bittersweet" (Egypt, 2010) on December 6th, 2021

A 30-year-old Egyptian goes back to Egypt after living in America for 20 years, but he has a hard time coping with the difference, especially after he loses his identity and all his money and becomes stuck in Egypt.



Co-sponsored events

Professor Yasser Munif lecture on October 6, 2021 (Virtual).



Peter Beinart lecture on October 14, 2021 (virtual).

TISCH COLLEGE SOLOMONT SPEAKER SERIES 2021



Peter Beinart
CNN political commentator, Editor-at-Large and Associate Professor

October 14, 2021
5:30 PM ET

VIRTUAL EVENT
To RSVP, or for more information, use the QR code or visit tischcollege.tufts.edu/events.

Follow the conversation: #BeinartAtTufts

This event is the second installment of a year-long series of events offered by Tisch College and the Center for the Humanities at Tufts (CHaT) focused on antisemitism. The event is cosponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Middle Eastern Studies Program, and the Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies. This event series is generously supported by Susan and Alan Salomon.

 Jonathan M. Tisch
College of Civic Life



Professor Jytte Klausen lecture on November 9th, 2021 (in-person).



WESTERN JIHADISM: A THIRTY YEAR HISTORY

Learn the story of how Al Qaeda grew in the West

JYTTE KLAUSEN
LAWRENCE A. WIEN PROFESSOR
OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION,
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 9TH**
5pm ET
745A Dowling Hall

This event is co-sponsored by the Political Science Department, the Middle Eastern Studies Program, and the the Fares Center for Mediterranean Studies at the Fletcher School



Home, Homeland, and Belonging

This year-long research initiative is devoted to exploring the interrelated categories of home and homeland, belonging, and equal citizenship in societies riven by various forms of conflict. A major catalyst is the desire to consider whether these three categories, which have proven to be so resilient and exclusionary over time, can be re-imagined as more permeable and inclusive. We are convening a group of scholars from a variety of disciplines to engage in a collaborative project animated by creative analysis and a shared commitment to normative conclusions to our work.

Monthly meetings beginning in January will culminate in a final workshop in Amsterdam this summer. Our approaches seek to provide historical depth, engage in comparative analysis, and address the affective dimensions of the guiding categories. Half of our group will address the case of Israel-Palestine; the other half will explore other case studies or offer distinct comparative and theoretical perspectives to the guiding themes. We hope our work will culminate in both theoretical contributions and normative recommendations.



Language Tables

Language Tables are led by native speakers and meet weekly, or so often as the group desires. They present an opportunity for students to practice these languages and connect with others who share an interest in the language or region.

Arabic --> The Fares Center is organizing three Arabic tables this semester: beginner, intermediate and advanced.

Hebrew --> The Fares Center is organizing one Hebrew table this semester.

Turkish --> The Fares Center is organizing one Turkish table this semester.



THE FARES CENTER
For Eastern Mediterranean Studies
The Fletcher School

CALL FOR STUDENT WORKING GROUP PROPOSALS



Groups will receive up to \$1,000 in funding to implement all intended activities. Additionally, all groups will be compensated on an hourly basis at the standard Fletcher rate for no more than 50 hours per semester.

Student Working Groups

These groups will be focused on a country, area, or theme related to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and may engage in several academic activities, including but not limited to conducting research, organizing speaker events, preparing publications, and creating a podcast. The Fares Center supported the work of four Student Working Groups during Fall 2021.

Blockades, Bots, and the Future of Gulf Unity

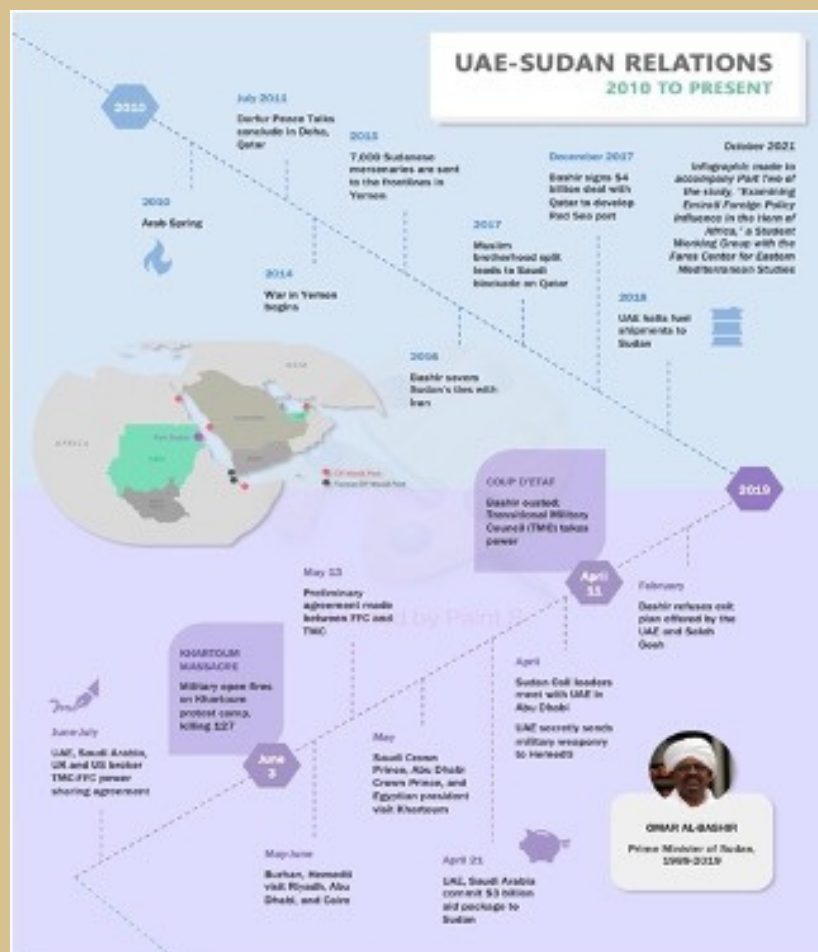
Caroline Hayes (MALD '22), Juliana Rordorf (MALD '22), Will Crass (MALD '22)

Using the 2017-2021 Qatar blockade as a historical backdrop, the group is analyzing the extent to which Gulf states' increased technological capacity to monitor and control public dissent shaped, and are shaping, public discourse around Gulf unity in the post-blockade landscape.

Examining Emirati Foreign Policy Interests in the Horn of Africa

Kyrre Berland (MALD '22), Chris Brew (MALD '22), Delia Burns (MALD '22)

The students are working on a series of white papers on Emirati policy interests in the Horn of Africa. The series will explore how Emirati geopolitical strategy influences political dynamics within and between Somalia, Ethiopia, and Sudan.



TwentyTwenty Podcast Series

Elizabeth Dykstra-McCarthy (MALD '21), Max Klaver (A'19, MALD '21), Mario Zampaglione (MALD '21)

This project seeks to utilize the TwentyTwenty platform to continue the question of what global trends have been accelerated by the events of 2020, through a MENA-specific lens. In doing so, the series will look at current trends that are affecting the region and explore the potential paths this global crisis might send it down.

Umbrellas in the Desert Podcast

Majed Fitaihi (MALD '22), Waleed Al Mutawa (MIB '23)

This is an interactive podcast focused on Gulf cultural, sustainable, and economic development. The students have guests on the podcast episodes who are able to provide insights on the region. One of the main objectives of Umbrellas in the Desert is to create an interactive platform where listeners can ask questions to the guests before the episodes. Majed and Waleed hope to have an identity built on the promotion of sustainability and innovation in the region.

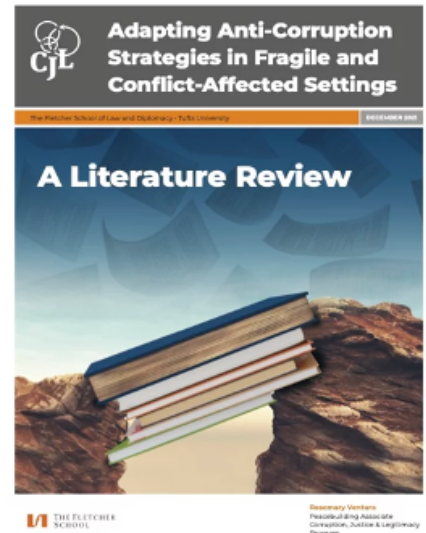


Research Assistants Initiative

The Research Assistants Initiative pairs Fletcher faculty with qualified Fletcher students who assist them with conducting research on a topic related to the Middle East. Many students have expressed their desire to work more closely with faculty, and last year's RAs indicated that being a Fares Research Assistant increased their interaction with professors and was overall a significant benefit to their Fletcher experience.

The Fares Center is currently supporting the research of six faculty members at the Fletcher School through this initiative by providing support to seven students. Some of the students have had the opportunity to publish through their RA work.

For more information check our website:
<https://sites.tufts.edu/farescenter/>



The QR code leads to the website.

